

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

Acting Assistant Director for Operations

30 August 1960

Gitter, W.H.D.

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Material for Intelligence Review Course



1. Herewith is brief synopsis of the history, responsibilities, and operations of FBIS, for the CIA Intelligence Review Course Instruction Manual.
2. Under NSCID No. 2, FBIS (called FBIS overseas) conducts monitoring of foreign radio and television propaganda and press broadcasts for intelligence information. From a total of some 6,500,000 words monitored daily, FBIS field stations throughout the world select nearly a quarter of a million words for transcription or translation and relay to Washington by allocated Army radio teletype circuits and cable.
3. FBIS was established in early 1941 under the Federal Communications Commission. Its establishment was guided by experiences of the British during the earlier days of World War II, when it was discovered that a great deal of intelligence information was obtainable through monitoring of enemy radios. A joint arrangement with the British was made, and within a few months FBIS was giving blanket coverage to Japanese radios and exchanging this material for similar blanket coverage of German radios by the British Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Service. In 1945, at the conclusion of WW II FBIS was transferred from FCC to C-2 of the War Department, where it remained until it was shifted to the Central Intelligence Group in 1946.
4. To perform its monitoring FBIS has nine overseas and two domestic field bureaus, of varying size, located in Hokkaido, Tokyo, Okinawa, Saigon, Cyprus, Vienna, Frankfurt, London (where the reciprocal arrangement with the BBC still remains in effect), Panama, [redacted] and Santa Rosa, California. All operate overtly. Although there are some gaps in global coverage these field stations essentially divide the World into areas of responsibility and attempt to cover all of the most important foreign radios. FBIS is at the present time planning a station in West Africa. The field stations are staffed with classified editors, engineers, administrative personnel plus linguists to do the actual monitoring. At overseas bureaus these linguists are all foreign nationals.
5. In its headquarters FBIS has two major operating branches, plus administrative, engineering and operations staff sections. In the Editorial Branch, selected material from the incoming file from field bureaus is transmitted by a 24-hour ticker wire service to consumer offices in CIA, the Department of State and other agencies. By these rapid means, major pronouncements by key foreign personalities and announcements of important events are often in the hands of consumers within minutes of the completion of the broadcasts. This Branch also produces for intelligence analysts and other consumers a four-volume Daily Report in 2,000 copies, divided by geographical area, consisting of the principal texts and summaries of the preceding day's broadcasts. Extracts from the Daily Report

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are published as a White Book and released to qualifying non-government users. Supplements to the Daily Report are issued as required in the form of full texts of lengthy speeches, etc., as well as compilations of World Radio and Press Reactions to major news developments and policy pronouncements. In addition, the branch publishes each week some 1000 cards of abstracted economic data for limited distribution.

6. The Radio Propaganda Branch analyzes communist propaganda disseminated by radio and press, producing studies and analyses in support of intelligence estimates, watch operations and psychological warfare requirements. It publishes two series of Radio Propaganda Reports dealing with propagandistic treatment of current developments and longer range intelligence problems; a weekly Trends and Highlights of Communist Bloc Broadcasts; and a more detailed biennial Survey of Communist Bloc Broadcasts. Communist propaganda developments of immediate importance also reported to recipients on the FBIS Wire Service.

7. Support functions, provided by the division as a corollary of its monitoring activities, include the compilation and publication of technical information on the locations, ownership, wavelengths, program schedules and characteristics of foreign transmitters.

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AREA OR COUNTRY(s)	ORGANIZATIONS	FUNCTIONS & TOPICS	PERSONALITIES	DOCUMENT
OTR	FBID	Responsibilities		DATE: 30 Aug 60
	FBIS	Operations		
		History		
				CLASS.: S NO.:
IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT (author, form, addressee, title & length)				
Acting Assistant Director for Operations Chief FBID Material for INtelligence Review Course				
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ABSTRACT

This paper contains a brief synopsis of the history, responsibilities, and operations of FBIDk for the OTR Intelligence Review Course Instruction Manual.